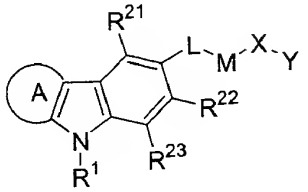
What is claimed is:

1. A compound represented by the following general formula (I) or a salt thereof:



(I)

[in the formula, A represents a 5- to 7-membered hydrocarbonic ring group (wherein the ring may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower acyl group, a lower alkoxy group and a halogen atom, and wherein the lower alkyl group, the lower acyl group, and the lower alkoxy group may have one or more substituents);
L represents a linking group selected from the group consisting of $-NR^3-CO-$, $-CO-NR^3-$, $-NR^3-CS-$, $-CS-NR^3-$, $-NR^3-SO_2-$ and $-SO_2-NR^3-$ (in the formulas, R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or a lower acyl group, wherein the lower alkyl group and the lower acyl group may have one or more substituents);
M represents an alkylene linking group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms [wherein the alkylene linking group may have one or more substituents, and the carbon atoms constituting the carbon chain of the alkylene linking group (except for at least one carbon atom) may be replaced with a nitrogen atom, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a 3- to 8-membered cycloalkylene group, wherein the nitrogen atom may be substituted with a lower alkyl group or a lower acyl group, and the cycloalkylene group may have one or more substituents], provided that M may be a single bond when L represents $-NR^3-CO-$;
X represents a linking group selected from the group consisting of -S-, -O-, $-NR^4-$, $-NR^5-CO-$, $-NR^5-CS-$ or $-NR^5-SO_2-$ (in the formulas, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or a lower acyl group, wherein the alkyl group and the lower acyl group may have one or more substituents, and the alkyl group may contain a ring structure, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or a lower acyl group, wherein the lower alkyl group and the lower acyl group may have one or more substituents, and R^4

may bind to M to form a ring) or a single bond, provided that X represents -NR^4- when M represents a single bond (wherein, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, and wherein the alkyl group may contain a ring structure and may have one or more substituents), and X represents a linking group selected from the group consisting of -NR^5-CO-, -NR^5-CS- and -NR^5-SO_2- mentioned above (in the formulas, R^5 has the same meaning as that defined above) when A represents a benzene ring;

Y represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms (wherein the alkyl group may contain a ring structure), an aryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, an amino group, a monoalkylamino group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a dialkylamino group having 2 to 16 carbon atoms, an azacycloalkyl group having 4 to 8 carbon atoms, a phosphoryl group, a monoalkylphosphoryl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a dialkylphosphoryl group having 2 to 16 carbon atoms, an aromatic heterocyclic group and a 5- to 7-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic group (wherein said groups may further have one or more substituents, and may bind to R^5 to form a ring), provided that Y represents an aromatic heterocyclic group or a 5- to 7-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic group when X represents a single bond, and R^4 and Y may bind to each other to form a ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind when M represents a single bond (wherein the ring may contain one or more hetero atoms as ring constituting atoms in addition to the nitrogen atom bound with R^4 and Y, and the ring may have one or more substituents);

R^1 represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a lower alkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkynyl group and a lower acyl group (wherein said groups may contain a ring structure, and may have one or more substituents); and

R^{21}, R^{22} and R^{23} each independently represent a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower acyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a halogen atom, an amino group, a mono(lower alkyl)amino group, a di(lower alkyl)amino group, a lower acylamino group and an amido group (wherein said substituent may have one or more substituents)].

2. The compound or the salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein A represents a 5- to 7-membered hydrocarbonic ring (wherein said ring may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower acyl group, a lower alkoxy group and a halogen atom, and wherein the

lower alkyl group, the lower acyl group and the lower alkoxy group may have one or more substituents);

L represents a linking group selected from the group consisting of -NR^3-CO-, -CO-NR^3-, -NR^3-CS-, -CS-NR^3-, -NR^3-SO_2- and -SO_2-NR^3- (in the formulas, R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or a lower acyl group, wherein the lower alkyl group and the lower acyl group may have one or more substituents);

M represents an alkylene linking group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms [wherein said alkylene linking group may have one or more substituents, and the carbon atoms constituting the carbon chain of the alkylene linking group (except for at least one carbon atom) may be replaced with a nitrogen atom, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a 3- to 8-membered cycloalkylene group, wherein the nitrogen atom may be substituted with a lower alkyl group or a lower acyl group, and the cycloalkylene group may have one or more substituents];

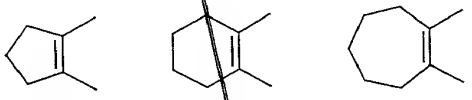
X represents a linking group selected from the group consisting of -S-, -O-, -NR^4-, -NR^5-CO-, -NR^5-CS- and -NR^5-SO_2- (in the formulas, R^4 and R^5 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or a lower acyl group, wherein the lower alkyl group or the lower acyl group may have one or more substituents, and R^4 may bind to M to form a ring) or a single bond, provided that X represents a linking group selected from the group consisting of -NR^5-CO-, -NR^5-CS- and -NR^5-SO_2- mentioned above (in the formulas, R^5 has the same meaning as that defined above) when A represents a benzene ring;

Y represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, an amino group, a monoalkylamino group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a dialkylamino group having 2 to 16 carbon atoms, an azacycloalkyl group having 4 to 8 carbon atoms, a phosphoryl group, a monoalkylphosphoryl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a dialkylphosphoryl group having 2 to 16 carbon atoms, an aromatic heterocyclic group and a 5- to 7-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic group (wherein said groups may further have one or more substituents, and may bind to R^5 to form a ring), provided that Y represents an aromatic heterocyclic group or a 5- to 7-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic group when X represents a single bond;

R^1 represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a lower alkyl group, a

lower alkenyl group, a lower alkynyl group and a lower acyl group (wherein said groups may contain a ring structure, and may have one or more substituents); and R^{21}, R^{22} and R^{23} each independently represent a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower acyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a halogen atom, an amino group, a mono(lower alkyl)amino group, a di(lower alkyl)amino group, a lower acylamino group and an amido group (wherein said substituent may have one or more substituents).

3. The compound or the salt thereof according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein A is a hydrocarbonic ring group represented by the following formula (Ia), (Ib) or (Ic):



(Ia) (Ib) (Ic)

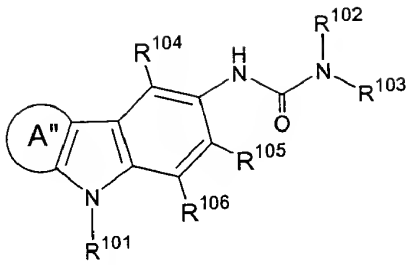
(wherein said rings may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower acyl group, a lower alkoxy group and a halogen atom, and wherein the lower alkyl group, the lower acyl group and the lower alkoxy group may have one or more substituents).

4. The compound or the salt thereof according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein A is a benzene ring (wherein said benzene ring may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower acyl group, a lower alkoxy group and a halogen atom, and wherein the lower alkyl group, the lower acyl group and the lower alkoxy group may have one or more substituents).

5. The compound or the salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein L is $-NR^3-CO-$ and X is $-NR^5-CO-$ or $-NR^5-SO_2-$.

6. The compound or the salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein L is $-CO-NR^3-$ and X is $-NR^5-CO-$ or $-NR^5-SO_2-$.

7. The compound or the salt thereof according to Claim 1, which is represented by the following general formula (XXI):



(XXI)

[in the formula, A" represents a 5- to 7-membered hydrocarbon ring group (wherein said ring may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group and a halogen atom, and wherein the lower alkyl group and the lower alkoxy group may have one or more substituents);

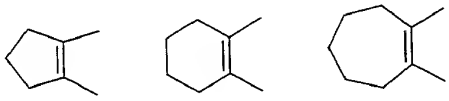
R^{101} represents a lower alkyl group or a lower acyl group (the lower alkyl group or the lower acyl group may contain a ring structure, and may have one or more substituents);

R^{102} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms in total (wherein the alkyl group may contain a ring structure, and may have one or more substituents);

R^{103} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms in total (wherein the alkyl group may contain a ring structure, and may have one or more substituents), and R^{102} and R^{103} may bind to each other to form a ring with the nitrogen atom to which they bind (wherein said ring may contain one or more hetero atoms as ring constituting atoms in addition to the nitrogen atom bound with R^{102} and R^{103}, and said ring may have one or more substituents); and

R^{104}, R^{105} and R^{106} each independently represent a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower acyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a halogen atom, an amino group, a mono(lower alkyl)amino group, a di(lower alkyl)amino group, a lower acylamino group and an amido group (wherein the substituent may have one or more substituents).

8. The compound or the salt thereof according to Claim 7, wherein A" is a hydrocarbonic ring group represented by the following formula (Ia), (Ib) or (Ic):



(Ia) (Ib) (Ic)

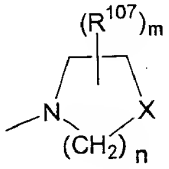
(wherein said rings may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group and a halogen atom, and wherein the lower alkyl group and the lower alkoxy group may have one or more substituents).

9. The compound or the salt thereof according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein R^{101} is a lower alkyl group (wherein the alkyl group may contain a ring structure, and may have one or more substituents).

10. The compound or the salt thereof according to any one of Claims 7 to 9, wherein R^{103} is an alkyl group having one or more substituents containing one or more hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen atom, an oxygen atom and a sulfur atom.

11. The compound or the salt thereof according to Claim 10, wherein the substituent on the alkyl group represented by R^{103} is a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a cyano group, a carbamoyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkylthio group, a lower alkylsulfonylamino group, a lower alkylcarbonylamino group, a hydroxyalkyl group, a hydroxyalkyloxy group, an alkoxyalkyloxy group, a monoalkylamino group, a dialkylamino group, a lower alkylsulfonylaminoalkoxy group, a lower alkylcarbonylaminoalkoxy group, a lower alkylsulfonylaminoalkylthio group, a lower alkylcarbonylaminoalkylthio group, a tetrazolyl group, a triazolyl group, an imidazolyl group, a pyridyl group, a morpholinyl group, a morpholino group, a thiomorpholino group, a piperazino group, a piperazinyl group, a piperidino group, a piperidinyl group, a pyrrolidinyl group, a triazolylthio group and an imidazolylthio group.

12. The compound or the salt thereof according to any one of Claims 7 to 11, wherein the ring formed by R^{102} and R^{103} bound to each other together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind is a ring represented by the following general formula (XXII):



(XXII)

[in the formula, X represents $-CH_2-$, -O-, -S-, -NH- or $-NR^{108}-$ [in the formula, R^{108} represents a lower alkyl group, a lower acyl group, a phenyl group or a heterocyclic group (wherein the lower alkyl group, the lower acyl group, the phenyl group and the heterocyclic group may have one or more substituents)];

n represents an integer of 1 to 4;

R^{107} represents a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a cyano group, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkylthio group, a lower alkylcarbonyl group (wherein the lower alkyl group, the lower alkoxy group, the lower alkylthio group and the lower alkylcarbonyl group may contain a ring structure, and may have one or more substituents), an aryl group (wherein the aryl group may have one or more substituents) or a heterocyclic group;

m represents an integer of 0 to 4, and when two or more of R^{107} exist, respective R^{107}s are independent and may be the same or different].

13. The compound or the salt thereof according to Claim 12, wherein X is $-CH_2-$, -O- or -S-.

14. A medicament comprising as an active ingredient a substance selected from the group consisting of the compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, and a hydrate thereof and a solvate thereof.

15. The medicament according to Claim 14, which is used for control of ingestion.

16. The medicament according to Claim 14, which is used for prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment of diabetes.

17. The medicament according to Claim 14, which is used for prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment of hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia or arteriosclerosis.

18. The compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, which is a ligand for neuropeptide Y receptor.

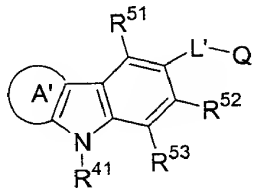
19. Use of a substance selected from the group consisting of the compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, and a hydrate thereof and a solvate thereof for manufacture of the medicament according to any one of Claims 14 to 16.

20. A method for controlling ingestion, which comprises the step of

administering an effective amount of a substance selected from the group consisting of the compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, and a hydrate thereof and a solvate thereof to a mammal including human.

21. A method for prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment of a disease in which NPY is involved, which comprises the step of administering an effective amount of a substance selected from the group consisting of the compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, and a hydrate thereof and a solvate thereof to a mammal including human.

22. A ligand for neuropeptide Y receptor, which comprises as an active ingredient a compound represented by the following general formula (IV) or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof:



(IV)

[in the formula, A' represents a 5- to 7-membered hydrocarbon ring group (wherein said ring may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower acyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a halogen atom, an amino group, a mono(lower alkyl)amino group, a di(lower alkyl)amino group, a lower acylamino group and an amido group, and wherein the lower alkyl group, the lower acyl group and the lower alkoxy group may have one or more substituents);

L' represents a linking group selected from the group consisting of $-NR^{63}-CO-$, $-CO-NR^{63}-$, $-NR^{63}-CS-$, $-CS-NR^{63}-$, $-NR^{63}-SO_2-$ and $-SO_2-NR^{63}-$ (in the formulas, R^{63} represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or a lower acyl group, wherein the lower alkyl group and the lower acyl group may have one or more substituents);

Q represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alkylalkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an alkylcycloalkylalkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, an alkylcycloalkyl

group, a cycloalkylalkyl group and an alkylazacycloalkyl group (wherein said substituent may have one or more substituents);

R^{41} represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of a lower alkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkynyl group and a lower acyl group (wherein said substituent may contain a ring structure, and may have one or more substituents); and

R^{51}, R^{52} and R^{53} each independently represent a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, a lower acyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a halogen atom, an amino group, a mono(lower alkyl)amino group, a di(lower alkyl)amino group, a lower acylamino group and an amido group (wherein said substituent may have one or more substituents)].

23. A ligand for neuropeptide Y receptor according to Claim 22, which comprises as an active ingredient a compound represented by the general formula (IV) or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, wherein L' is $-CONR^{63}-$.

24. A medicament for controlling ingestion, which comprises as an active ingredient a substance selected from the group consisting of the compound represented by the general formula (IV) according to Claim 22 or 23 and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, and a hydrate thereof and a solvate thereof.

25. A medicament for prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment of diabetes, which comprises as an active ingredient a substance selected from the group consisting of the compound represented by the general formula (IV) according to Claim 22 or 23 and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, and a hydrate thereof and a solvate thereof.

26. A medicament for prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment of hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia or arteriosclerosis, which comprises as an active ingredient a substance selected from the group consisting of the compound represented by the general formula (IV) according to Claim 22 or 23 and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, and a hydrate thereof and a solvate thereof.

27. Use of a substance selected from the group consisting of the compound represented by the general formula (IV) according to Claim 22 or 23 and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, and a hydrate thereof and a solvate thereof for manufacture of the medicament according to Claims 24 to 26.

28. A method for controlling ingestion, which comprises the step of

administering an effective amount of a substance selected from the group consisting of the compound represented by the general formula (IV) according to Claim 22 or 23 and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, and a hydrate thereof and a solvate thereof to a mammal including human.

29. A method for therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment of a disease in which NPY is involved, which comprises the step of administering an effective amount of a substance selected from the group consisting of the compound represented by the general formula (IV) according to Claim 22 or 23 and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, and a hydrate thereof and a solvate thereof to a mammal including human.